

**Lake Champlain Basin Program
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2010**

Final Meeting Summary

I. Review of upcoming Request for Proposal releases, *Eric Howe*

- a. Enter Executive session to review and discuss drafts of:
 - i. IJC-Critical Source Area RFP
 - ii. Internal Phosphorus Loading in Missisquoi Bay RFP
- b. Leave Executive session
- c. ACTION: Motion to approve RFPs as amended (Bernie, Martin second, all in favor)

II. Updates and Announcements

- a. NY NRCS has released new brochures, actively outreaching to inform landowners about new programs for air quality, water quality, irrigation management with FY10 money
- b. NRPC has completed a summary report for their \$300,000 EPA grant over 4 years on Stevens and Rugg Brooks in St. Albans
- c. VTDFW has revised their magazine; much more polished using new printer, has paid advertisements to reduce costs
- d. Contracts have been signed for a sewer system in the Hamlet of Essex, NY at \$11.3M (\$10.3M is coming from grants); this is the last community on the NY side of the lake that is unsewered.

III. Summary of Previous TAC Meeting

- a. Review and approval of minutes from November 4 TAC meeting.
- b. ACTION: Motion to approve December 2009 meeting summary (Doug, Neil second, all in favor). No amendments.

IV. Lake Champlain Basin Program Update, *Bill Howland*

- a. EPA budget is set at \$4M for FY10
- b. \$6.5 M Leahy special appropriation from GLFC for sea lamprey management to improve habitat and water quality in Lake Champlain watershed
 - i. Discussions ongoing between Leahy staff, USFWS and LCBP to distribute funding among projects
- c. Closing in on an agreement between NY and VT on attorney general AEP settlement for phosphorus reduction in south lake for \$400,000
- d. Army Corps of Engineers workshop on Section 542 projects held on Dec 3rd; 6-7 participants
- e. Strong interest in Corps participation on Champlain Canal project
- f. USFWS has money to conduct a feasibility study on Feeder Canal out of Great Sacandaga Lake
- g. CVNHP EA has been drafted and will be presented to Steering Committee on Jan 13
- h. OFA Revisions
 - i. Still working on jurisdictional commitments; hoping for signatures in early summer
 - ii. LCBP hired part-time staff person to work with Jon Erickson on Economics chapter
- i. GLFC Habitat and Connectivity RFP was released January 5. Grants are for wildlife habitat and connectivity improvement. Grants are up to \$10,000. No match required. Proposals

due March 1.

V. Opportunities for Action Revisions

TAC reviewed the latest drafts of:

- a. ANS (*Meg Modley, LCBP*)
 - i. Minimal suggestions and comments provided
- b. Fish & Wildlife (*Bill Ardren, USFWS*)
 - i. Bill A.. reviewed where we are with commitments
 - ii. Review of new additions to chapter, including some revisions to goal and priority language
 - iii. Discussion about how to handle emerald ash borer; will bring this forward to Steering/Executive Committee (impacts on wetlands/riparian habitats)
 - iv. Quebec is still coordinating commitments with their F&W people
- c. Toxics & Human Health (*Neil Kamman, VT DEC*)
 - i. Neil introduced the concept of the chapter; briefly reviewed the strategy document that was used to develop this chapter
 - ii. Chapter aims to promote public understanding as to where the pollutants come from and what it means to the public
 - iii. TAC provided some feedback related to Title language, and Priorities
- d. Climate change (*Eric Howe*)
 - i. Presented an initial draft of the introduction to a climate change chapter
 1. Majority of text reproduced with permission from Mary Thill (INC) and Dr. Curt Stager (Paul Smith's College) as excerpted from a report they are preparing
 2. TAC felt that this was a good direction for this chapter, and to keep commitments relevant to climate change in their respective chapters
- e. Economics (*Jon Erickson*)
 - i. Presented a draft outline of his vision for the chapter
 - ii. Ecological Design Perspective
 1. Focus more on initial design
 2. South Burlington Stormwater utility approach
 - iii. Questions:
 1. Section IV: could there be an appeal actually to do the performance metrics?
 - Will be up to Steering Committee to allocate resources
 2. Tradeoffs for given services – can the costs and benefits of each service be provided in the text?
 - There will be a few examples, such as regulation of storm events and flooding
 - iv. Comment: Climate change and Economics chapters are different structure than other chapters
 1. More synthetic and integrative of the rest of the document; should point out to readers that when they get to these two chapters they'll see references to the other chapters.
 - v. General discussion ensued regarding where these two chapters should be placed in OFA; overall introduction can introduce these two chapters and then readers know what is coming.

VI. PM FY 2010 Budget Proposal ideas

- a. TAC reviewed the submitted FY10 1-page project descriptions and rank for Steering Committee approval (projects below are in order they were reviewed, NOT ranking). Rankings were provided in a separate document.
 1. IDDE project – ongoing project, minimal financial support in VT; \$100K has potential for detection of IDDE in entire Otter Creek basin. Has potential to identify other sources as well.
 2. Quantifying river load contribution – \$100K
 3. Agricultural BMP - \$200K – proposal to do on-site data collection in Basin; cost and timeframe inadequate; left at \$200K
 4. Restoring naturally spawning populations of Atlantic Salmon: \$100,000
 5. City of Winooski Highland Park Pollution Prevention Project: \$18,500
 6. Monitoring NPS nutrient runoff in the Little Chazy River: \$25,000
 7. BGA project: Evaluation of potential blue green algae toxins: \$100,000
 8. Developing an ANS database for the Lake Champlain Basin: \$60,000
 9. Survival and dispersal of smallmouth and largemouth bass after tournaments: modified to: \$90,000
 10. Fish passage and connectivity in river networks: \$60,000
 11. Subaqueous Soils characterization in Lake Champlain: revised to \$200,000; concerns framed around cultural investigation, cost of coring and quantity of information yielded; recommend focusing on specific area
 12. Stormwater Management Strategies in Waitsfield: \$25,000
 13. Administration and implementation of practices that reduce the impacts of hydrology on sediment and nutrient loading in agriculturally impaired watersheds of the Lake Champlain Basin: \$50,000
 14. Feasibility study for a regional stormwater utility: \$100,000; will need to be generalized before release
 15. Estimating real-time P loads from the Missisquoi River using coupled acoustic and optical sensors: \$225,000
 16. Addition of Stevens Brook streamgage and establishment of a new streamgage on Mill Brook: revised to \$40,000
 17. A Synoptic Assessment of Mercury and Reevaluation of PCB's in Lake Champlain Fishes – Northeast Regional TMDL Phase II Reassessment: \$65,000
 18. Monitoring the success of riparian restoration efforts in Vermont: \$68,750
 19. Monitoring wetland restoration sites in Vermont: \$200,750
 20. Lake Champlain Littoral Zone Biodiversity Survey AND Quantifying the extent and effect of shoreline development : Combined estimate: \$175,000
 21. Promoting livestock exclusion in the Lake Champlain Basin: \$100,000
 22. Maintaining monitoring of atmospheric mercury and methyl mercury deposition at Underhill: \$20,000
 23. Maintaining lake meteorological stations: \$35,000
 24. Identify small farms and the necessary conservation practices needed to improve water quality in agriculturally impaired watersheds of Northern Lake Champlain Basin AND South Lake Small Farm Assessment: \$75,000.
 25. NMP assistance to small farmers near the medium farm threshold: \$175,000

26. Expand the portable skidder bridge initiative in the Lake Champlain Basin to reduce sedimentation from logging operations: \$146,000
27. Targeted Watershed Implementation Initiative – Rock River Subwatershed: \$250,000
28. Support for VTDEC/TNC ongoing water chestnut management partnership: \$94,900
29. Evaluation of sediment and phosphorus removal in restored wetlands: \$50,000.
30. Allen Brook Riparian Corridor Enhancement Project: \$9,513.
31. Monitoring, spread prevention, and characterization of spiny water flea export in/near the Great Sacandaga Lake and Adirondack portions of the Champlain Basin: \$40,000
32. Closing the mercury cycle in Lake Champlain – how do mercury inputs to the lake get into fish?: \$70,000
33. Engineering technician services for agricultural practices installed by non-governmental organizations: revised to \$100,000
34. Cover cropping annual crop land in Missisquoi and South Lake Basins: \$36,000
35. Wetland Plant Communities: A 30-year Comparison: \$40,000
36. Analysis of factors that support cold water refugia in streams: \$150,000
37. A) Stream Discharge and Lake Level Analysis, B) Characterization of the Thermocline, C) Develop Whole Basin Hydrologic Model: \$500,000

VII. Adjourn

Attendance:

TAC Members:

Mike Winslow (Interim Chair), Neil Kamman, Bernie Pientka, Eric Smeltzer, Breck Bowden, Kip Potter, Mark Malchoff, Ed Snizek, Vic Putman, Fred Dunlap, David Franzi, Deb Perry, Marilyn Stephenson, Martin Mimeault, Doug Facey, Bill Ardren, Jon Erickson, Jon Kanoza, Steve Lanthier, Laura DiPietro

LCBP Staff: Bill Howland, Eric Howe, Nicole Grohoski, Meg Modley, Michaela Stickney (LCBP/VTANR)

Guests: Mario Paula (EPA), Thom Villars (USDA-NRCS), Rose Paul (TNC), David Borthwick-Leslie, Mike Pollica (Champlain Valley Anglers Alliance), James Ehlers (LCI)